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Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, when we look to the heavens, the works of Your fingers, the Moon and the stars that You have established, what is humanity that You are mindful of us? May those thoughts of Your Majesty lead us to humility and a willingness to acknowledge our weakness and failure as we receive Your strength and wisdom.

Give our Senators a passion for Your glory. Help them to remember Your words: Those who exalt themselves shall be abased, and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

Today, I personally thank You for the gifts of TRENT and TRICIA LOTT. I praise You for their friendship, their faithfulness, and their fervor for You. As they leave the Senate, surround them with Your grace, power, and love.

We ask this in the Name of Him who is perfection incarnate. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 19, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, morning business will be what we will do most of the day. We have a 10-minute limitation, as we normally do, except for JACK REED, who has an order for 30 minutes. We are going to recess today at 12:30 for a Democratic conference and then reconvene at 2:15. We have a number of issues we will be working through today, the House is sending us, we are going to send them. There are, of course, no votes, and we will do our very best to finish as soon as we can. I spoke to both Majority Leader HOYER and Speaker PELOSI today. They expect to finish around 6 or 7 tonight. So during that time we will be running things back and forth with each other until we get this worked out.

ORDER FOR RETURN OF PAPERS—H.R. 2764

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this request has been approved by the Republicans. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate request the House to return the papers relative to H.R. 2764.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTEGRATED DEEPWATER PROGRAM REFORM ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 171, S. 924.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 924) to strengthen the United States Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater Program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Integrated Deepwater Program Reform Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Procurement structure.

Sec. 3. Analysis of alternatives.

Sec. 4. Certification.

Sec. 5. Contract requirements.

Sec. 6. Improvements in Coast Guard management.

Sec. 7. Procurement and report requirements.

Sec. 8. GAO review and recommendations.

Sec. 9. Inspector General review of Deepwater program.

Sec. 10. Definitions.

SEC. 2. PROCUREMENT STRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the United States Coast Guard may not use a private sector entity as a lead systems integrator for procurements under, or in support of, the Integrated Deepwater Program after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION.—The United States Coast Guard shall utilize full and open competition for any other procurement for which an outside contractor is used under, or in support of, the Integrated Deepwater Program after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) COMPLETION OF PROCUREMENT BY LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Coast Guard may use a private sector entity as a lead systems integrator—

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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